

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND TRIBAL  
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)  
ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING SUMMARY**

**May 8, 2018**

**744 P Street, OB-9, Room 205**

**Sacramento, CA**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

This document summarizes key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal TANF Administrators (TTA) and leaders, and CDSS representatives on May 8, 2018.

*Action items from the prior Tribal TANF Administrators' meeting on February 23, 2018, were met.*

**Legislative Updates**

Elaine Ward, CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau Chief, provided legislative updates.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2111 proposes to extend the current 12-month exception period for additional 12-month periods for a sponsored CalWORKs applicant or recipient who is deemed to meet the indigent exception.

AB 2269 proposes to increase the age of eligible young adults from 19 to 20 years of age, if he or she is attending high school or vocational training on a full-time basis, and is reasonably expected to complete the educational or training program before his or her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

AB 2637 proposes that a person under 19 years of age who attains a high school diploma or its equivalent while receiving CalWORKs aid, and who is ineligible for payment supplements under the Cal-Learn Program, is eligible to receive a one-time education support payment of \$500.

Senate Bill (SB) 726 proposes to increase the threshold of overpayments from \$35 to \$125, or higher if a higher threshold is more cost effective.

SB 982 proposes to increase grants for CalWORKs recipients and ensure they receive a specified minimum amount each month. It would also require the minimum and maximum grant amounts to be increased each year by the same percentage as the increase in the federal poverty level for each family size.

**Federal Updates**

Todd Bland, Deputy Director of the Family Engagement and Empowerment Division, stated that May Revision changes will be proposed next week.

The Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system will be unavailable for any transactions from Saturday, June 23, to Sunday, June 24 for 24 hours, due to a new platform transfer which would allow a larger surcharge-free network. An All-County Letter (ACL) will be posting soon and will provide further information.

Kim Johnson, CalWORKs and Child Care Branch Chief, provided an update on the 2018 Federal TANF Reauthorization through Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which may be referred to as the "Joining Opportunity with Benefits and Services for Success Act (JOBSS)." The biggest change in the proposal is how outcome performance will be assessed. There are four measures/indicators:

1. Percentage of work-eligible individuals in unsubsidized employment in the second quarter after the participant exits.
2. Percentage of work-eligible individuals in unsubsidized employment in the second and fourth quarters after exiting.
3. Median earnings of work-eligible individuals in unsubsidized employment in the second quarter after exiting.
4. Percentage of work-eligible individuals under 24 years of age, attending high school or enrolled in an equivalent program, who obtained a high school degree or equivalent within one year of exiting.

It is proposed that the outcome data from the four measures will be posted on a dashboard with every state's results, with each state receiving a letter grade.

A major proposed change is that unused state funds would be returned to the federal government and made available for redistribution to other states.

The California CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) initiative plans to have finalized the first set of measures by early Fall 2018.

AB 480, enacted on April 1, 2018, is a CalWORKs supportive service in the form of a \$30/month diaper benefit, issued for every child under 3 years of age.

### **CDSS Tribal Affairs Team**

Heather Hostler, Director of the Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA), introduced the newest hire to the OTA team, Jennifer Parsons.

Heather emphasized the OTA's mission to build on the government to government relationship between the CDSS and the tribes, and how to best engage with one another. The OTA is working toward putting together a Tribal Advisory Committee by September 2018. The Tribal Advisory Committee is a holistic approach to bringing together Tribal Organizations, Tribal Leaders/Tribal Government Representatives, State, County and Federal partners on a quarterly basis. Handouts were provided.

AB 3176, introduced by Assembly Member Marie Waldron with the updated Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 2016 regulations, provides better protection for Indian children. There will be a stakeholder meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol, introduced by the California Coalition.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Conference will be held from June 3-6, 2018, at Graton Rancheria.

### **CalFresh Updates**

Brian Kaiser, CalFresh Bureau Chief, and Sarah Turner, CalFresh Employment and Training Program (E&T) Manager, provided follow up on the CalFresh E&T Program from

the last meeting on February 23, 2018. The E&T Program offers supportive and ancillary services such as dependent care and transportation costs to help secure employment for non-CalWORKs individuals.

The E&T Program's vision is to expand training and employment opportunities for CalFresh recipients. For every non-federal dollar spent, Tribal TANF Programs will be eligible to 75% reimbursement. Resources, such as technical assistance and the planning process to assist in developing and submitting county E&T plans, can be found on the CalFresh E&T website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/CalFresh/Employment-and-Training>. Anyone interested should contact CalFresh E&T directly by June 15, 2018.

### **Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center Presentation**

Mark Espinosa, Director of the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center from the California Area Indian Health Service, presented information regarding the facility in Temecula. The Indian Health Clinic is currently not accredited, but will receive accreditation by the end of the year. Because the facility is federally run, private donations, such as clothes, food and gift cards, are being accepted to help provide for the children.

California was granted a waiver to reimburse tribal clinics for non-licensed staff and services. The 1115 Waiver is through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

CDs, pamphlets and USBs regarding Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center were distributed.

### **Open Discussion**

Requests for future agenda items should be sent to Linda Truong at [Linda.Truong@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Linda.Truong@dss.ca.gov).

### **CDSS Action Items**

- Share ACL regarding EBT outage
- Share link to the Federal TANF Reauthorization through 2023
- Share All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) for CalFresh E&T planning process and chart for funding sources and to show who is eligible

### **NEXT TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS' MEETINGS**

Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 9:00 am – 12 pm (OB-9 Room 205)

Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (OB-9 Room 1804)